

Agri-food Policy Analysis Workshop

Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

January 11-12, 2024

Background/Justification

In achieving a sustainable food system in Southeast Asia, analysts have faced several challenging policy questions. Although many of agri-food policy researchers could provide research evidence, translating research outputs into evidence-based policy change is a significant and challenging step to achieving sustainable food system transformation. Because quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods policy research can be conducted at different stages of the policy process, understanding policy research pathways and instruments for policy formulation, adoption, implementation, and evaluation is important for policy research to achieve impacts. Understanding the policy process that uses evidence generated by the analysis is therefore crucial for facilitating such translation of research outputs into action and impact.

In Southeast Asia, there are many agri-food policy issues that are common across countries but sharing and communicating the policy research outputs among the policy analysts itself is still limited. This workshop will strengthen the capacity of agri-food policy analysts in Southeast Asia in better generating evidence-based research and understanding how this evidence can be used to formulate policy solutions towards sustainable food system.

Objectives

1. To gain understanding of the evidence-based research to policy process and recognition of its role in food system transformation
2. To strengthen capacity of analysts to identify policy options, examine tradeoffs, and communicate them to policymakers
3. To create a network of agri-food policy analysts in the region for information sharing and peer to peer learning

Participants: Invited 18-25 agri-food policy analysts from ASEAN member states will join the workshop.

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Date/time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator
Thursday Jan 11, 2024		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:30	Opening session Introduction of the program and participants Photo session	Dr. Visit Limsombunchai Dean, Faculty of Economics Dr. Orachos Napisintuwong Deputy Dept Head for International Affairs, Dept. Agricultural and Resource Economics
9:30-10:30	Introduction to agri-food system policy analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domains of agri-food policy - Objectives of agri-food policy - Instruments of agri-food policy - Role of empirical analysis to inform policy options 	Dr. Duncan Boughton Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics Michigan State University & Visiting Professor, Dept. Agricultural and Resource Economics, Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University
10:30-10:45	Workout break Coffee break	
10:45-12:00	Political economy of agri-food policy making The Policy Process The Policy Analysis Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structuring a policy problem - Policy development and formulation - Forecasting policy futures - Assessment of policy options The role of policy analysts in the ASEAN agri-food system	Dr. Aileen V. Lapitan Director, Center for Strategic Planning and Policy Studies, College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines at Los Banos
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-15:30	Group formation and discussion of agri-food policy issues: What are “hot button” policy issues at country and/or regional level that can be informed by policy analysis? What constraints do you face in undertaking and/or engaging policy makers on these issues? Which issues are better addressed through collaboration among analysts and which can be addressed independently?	Dr. Orachos Napisintuwong Kasetsart University
15:30-15:45	Workout break Coffee break	
15:45-16:30	Policy communication and advocacy Policy brief preparation and effective policy influence methods	Dr. Suresh Bablu Head, Capacity Strengthening International Food Policy Research Institute

Friday Jan 12, 2024

9:00-11:00	Current agri-food system policy issues in ASEAN	Dr. Aziz Elbehr Senior Economist and Group Leader, Socio-economic Development and Policy Support Group, FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
11:00-11:15	Workout break Coffee break	
11:15-12:00	Food price inflation: Past, present and future	Dr. David Ortega Faculty Laureate, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Associate Professor, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics Michigan State University
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-15:30	Ex-ante policy analysis: Introduction of a new product label in the presence of misinformation Conducting policy preference research: methods, issues, and considerations.	Dr. David Ortega Michigan State University
15:30-15:45	Workout break Coffee break	
15:45-16:30	Group presentations and discussion of agri-food policies in ASEAN that could be addressed through regional collaboration and what are needed for more effective evidenced-based policy research	Dr. Orachos Napisintuwong Kasetsart University

Contact person:

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Speakers



Duncan Boughton

Dr. Duncan Boughton has over 30 years of professional experience in policy analysis focusing on efforts to raise smallholder farmer incomes in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and has undertaken long-term assignments in the Philippines, The Gambia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, and Myanmar. His work has focused on agricultural research and technology transfer for smallholder farmers, value chain development, policy analysis and outreach to host country senior government decision makers, and capacity building of local staff. Professor Boughton's published research has examined the constraints affecting smallholder farmers' ability to participate in markets for various types of crops, and the need for complementary investments in crop productivity and market access. In Myanmar his work focused on improving agricultural policy and strategy, and preparation of a long-term investment plan to establish a national agricultural research system. At Kasetsart University he collaborates with faculty working on the Innovation Lab for Policy, Research, Capacity Building and Influence (PRCI) in Southeast Asia, and the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation into national agricultural strategies in the region. Duncan received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University, USA.



Aileen Virrey Lapitan

Dr. Aileen Virrey Lapitan is an Assistant Professor at the College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), where she is concurrently the Director at the Center for Strategic Planning and Policy Studies (CSPPS). She also leads the implementation of the Development Innovations and Policy Laboratory (DIPLab) at CSPPS, which delivers capacity building interventions to researchers in the agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources sector so they can transform their findings into policy relevant information, for use in the policy process. As a faculty member, she is involved in curriculum development and student mentoring for graduate programs in Development Management and Governance, Public Affairs, and Development Studies. She is a member of the American Evaluation Association, a Certified Expert in Adaptation Finance, and a John Dillon Fellow. Dr. Lapitan holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from UPLB, Master of Arts (Economics) from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, and a doctorate degree in Public Policy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA.



Suresh Babu

Dr. Suresh Babu is an international agricultural economist who has conducted policy research, capacity development, and policy advisory activities for more than 30 years in the Sub Saharan Africa, South Asia, Central Asia, and other developing regions. He joined IFPRI in 1992 and has since served in several positions including as Coordinator of IFPRI's Southern Africa Food Security Program, Coordinator of its Central Asia Program, and Coordinator of its South Asia Initiative and its Policy Analysis and Advisory Network. At IFPRI, Dr. Babu is guiding its regional and country programs in their capacity development activities. He has conducted many national dialogues leading to the development of national food security and agricultural policies of several developing countries in Africa including, Malawi, Ghana, and Nigeria; and in Asia including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. Dr. Babu was previously a research economist at Cornell University. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has published 20 books and more than 100 peer reviewed journal papers on food and agricultural policies in developing countries, and he has served on the editorial boards of several leading academic journals including, *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, *Food Security*, *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, and the *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.



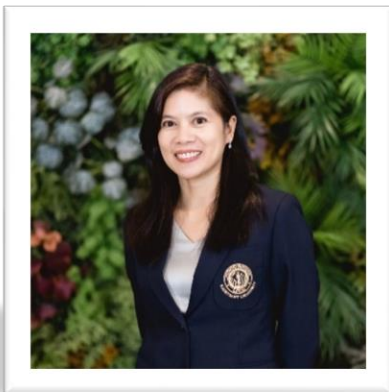
Aziz Elbehri

Aziz Elbehri, Senior Economist, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand. Aziz Elbehri is Senior Economist and stream leader in the Socio-economic Policy and Rural Development Stream at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok. Aziz was research economist at the United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (1999-2008) and from 2008 joined FAO as Senior Economist and Trade and Development Specialist and in 2018 he moved to the Bangkok regional Office. Aziz has a long track of publications in food and agriculture and economic policy issues across a range of subject areas. Aziz was the lead author of the IPCC Special Report on Climate change and Land (issued in 2019). Aziz has worked in over 50 countries across all continents. Aziz holds a Ph.D. in Trade and Development from Purdue University, master's degrees in agronomy and agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota, and an Ingenieur degree in agronomy from the Institut Agronomique in Rabat, Morocco.



David Ortega

David Ortega is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University and a College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Faculty Laureate. His research program focuses on understanding consumer, producer, and agribusiness decision-making to better inform food policies and marketing strategies. Dr. Ortega has research experience in several developing and emerging countries, including China, India, Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda. His research has been published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals, including *Food Policy*, *World Development*, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Agricultural Economics*, *China Economic Review*, and *the European Review of Agricultural Economics*, to name a few. Dr. Ortega provides timely analysis of forces and events affecting the agricultural and food sector. He has been called to provide expert testimony before federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Congress. He is frequently interviewed by prominent media outlets, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, USA Today, CNN, PBS, Forbes, Politico, Newsweek, and the Detroit Free Press, among others. Dr. Ortega earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.



Orachos Napisintuwong

Orachos Napisintuwong is an Associate Professor, Deputy Department Head of International Affairs and the Chair of Ph.D. program in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Kasetsart University. Her teaching and research areas are economics of biotechnology, and agricultural innovation, agricultural production economics, and consumer preferences for agricultural and food products and food policy. She has numerous publications in international journals and serves as Associate Editor of *Asian Journal of Applied Economics*, *Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development*, *Agro Ekonomi*. She received her Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics from University of Florida.